

Thursday, June 10, 2021

MINUTES OF THE CONTRACTS COMMITTEE OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held June 10, 2021, by video conference call, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 5:16 p.m.

Committee members present were Chair John Weldon, Joe Sokolovic, and Joseph Lombard. Board member Albert Benejan were present.

Mr. Sokolovic moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of May 20, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lombard and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on a municipal energy opportunities project at the Thomas Carroll Nutrition Center with the United Illuminating Company.

Mr. Weldon said this was brought to the board by John Gerrity, director of food and nutrition.

Jorge Garcia, director of facilities, said he worked with Mr. Gerrity on this, which is a tremendous opportunity to get energy upgrades and replacement of motors and lighting at the nutrition center. He said the UI's Distressed Cities program is an 80 percent reimbursement for the work done and the hardware installed, and then 20 percent financing at zero percent, which is on-bill financing. There is no capital expenditure from the district.

Mr. Garcia said three firms submitted proposals. He said the team looked at the proposals and Mike Zirkel of the facilities department, an expert on energy, looked closely at the

options.

Mr. Zirkel said the vendor chosen – Energy Solutions – had a simpler approach. Another option included a high-tech lighting system for which the payback would not have been as quick. He said the annual electrical savings will be almost \$40,000.

In response to a question, Mr. Gerrity said from conversations with UI the annual savings are an estimate. He said the committee selected Energy Solutions based on their professional approach, which exceeded the other vendors. He said their response was also the most detailed.

Mr. Garcia said, in addition to energy savings, we're addressing a host of issues the nutrition center is currently experiencing with specific motors and lighting.

In response to a question, Mr. Gerrity said the cost to the nutrition center will be added to the monthly utility bill, with the term of the loan being 24 months at zero percent. Mr. Weldon noted in the first two years the projected annual savings are \$20,000 in each year, and then it goes up to \$40,000.

Mr. Sokolovic said it sounds great.

In response to a question, Mr. Gerrity said the first proposal seemed to inflate their potential annual energy savings. Mr. Garcia said that first proposal also included software with a reoccurring additional fee. Mr. Gerrity said the first vendor presenting did give a detailed proposal, but there were two subsequent vendors considered.

Mr. Lombard moved *“to refer to this matter to the full board*

for its approval at the next meeting.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic and unanimously approved.

Mr. Sokolovic moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lombard and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

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